USSR-INDIA: Possible Visit by Chernenko

ay that General Secretary Chernenko will visit India
just before the elections that must be held by early next year, if it is
necessary to improve Prime Minister Gandhi's reelection prospects,
If Gandhi's reelection seems likely,
however, Chernenko probably will not make the visit until later.
also say that Moscow has made a large financial
allocation for propaganda and for visits by other high-level Soviets to
help get Gandhi reelected.
Comment: Moscow wants Gandhi to win because it is convinced that
no other Indian politician is as well disposed toward the USSR.
Gandhi believes that a successful visit by Chernenko would
help her electoral chances. Former General Secretary Andropov
was also prepared to visit India to help Gandhi, but his
failing health prevented the trip. The timing of Defense Minister
Ustinov's recent trip there was advanced primarily
because Andropov was unable to go.